

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**IN OPPOSITION TO
L.D. 907
AN ACT TO REDUCE MILFOIL INVESTATION**

SPONSORED BY: Representative Powers of Naples

DATE OF HEARING: March 31, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Lt. Dan Scott, of the Maine Warden Service at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 907**.

Currently there is no requirement to obtain a permit to place a water ski slalom course in the State of Maine unless it is for a water ski exhibition or it is going to be placed within the water safety zone.

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Bureau of Parks & Lands has adopted rules, as authorized by Title 12 MRSA, Section 1894. These rules include the basic system of waterway markers used on state waters as recommended by the U.S. Coast Guard for the purpose of minimizing hazards to navigation. Part of this system includes the following requirements which must be adhered to when placing a water ski slalom course or water ski jump on inland waters:

Section III – System of aids to navigation & waterway markers.

d. Ski Slalom Course, Water: All water ski slalom courses shall be marked with RED and YELLOW, minimum nine (9) inch spherical markers and arranged in compliance with the American Water Ski Association Regulations for slalom courses. No part of a water ski slalom course shall be within the Water Safety Zone (within 200 feet of any shoreline) unless authorized to do so by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

e. Ski Jump, Water: All water ski jump structures will be equipped with orange reflectors or reflecting tape visible from all sides. Any such structure anchored beyond the water safety zone (200 feet from any shore) between the hours of sunset and sunrise shall be illuminated with a single white light showing all around the horizon.

Currently permits are issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to hold regattas, races, boat exhibitions or water ski exhibitions. The Department does this at no cost to the permit requester, as there are few permit requests. There are numerous water ski slalom courses placed on inland waters each summer.

L.D. 907 as written would require someone to inspect the site of a permitted regatta, race, boat exhibition or water ski course for invasive plants. It does not indicate who would be responsible to conduct these inspections for invasive plants. Even if the event is moved to another location, this still does not prevent motorized watercraft from operating in the area.

The current process for handling these permits creates limited impact to Department staff and we receive relatively few complaints regarding water ski courses each year. If L.D. 907 passes, it will require numerous private citizens to obtain permits which are currently not required.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have now or during the work session.